

## Message Text

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71

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 H-02 EB-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01

L-03 /103 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ P: JEBRIGGS

4/27/73 EXT 20448

APPROVED BY NEA/ P: JEBRIGGS

S/ PRS: CBRAV ( INFO)

IO/ P: FBLACHLY

AF/ P: GAFRIEDMAN

NEA/ EGY: MSTERNER

EUR/ P: ESAVAGE

H: KFOLGER ( INFO)

----- 055292

R 272103 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

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USMISSION USUN NY

USMISSION NATO

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BEIRUT ALSO POUCH BAGHDAD  
KUWAIT ALSO POUCH SANAA

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL  
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN' S PRESS BRIEFING  
APRIL 27, 1973:

QUOTE: MR. BRAY: LET ME JUST RESPOND TO A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS THAT I TOOK YESTERDAY. ON THE STATUS OF THE PROSECUTION OF THE TERRORISTS IN KHARTOUM. BY OUR UNDERSTANDING OF IT, THE SUDANESE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET INDICATED WHEN THE TRIAL WILL BEGIN. AND BY OUR UNDERSTANDING OF IT, THEIR PRELIMINARY JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION IS CONTINUING.

MARVIN, YOU ASKED ME YESTERDAY WHETHER ISRAEL HAD TURNED OVER RECONNAISSANCE PHOTOS TO US. NO COMMENT.

Q. DID THE EMBASSY IN BEIRUT INTERVENE WITH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF ROBERT VESCO, OR WAS ANYONE IN THE EMBASSY ASKED TO DO SO BY THE WHITE HOUSE?

A. I UNDERSTAND THAT MR. ERLICHMAN HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT IN THIS MATTER, THE TEXT OF WHICH I HAVE NOT SEEN ALTHOUGH I AM AWARE OF ITS CONTENTS, THE PURPORT OF WHICH IS TO SAY THAT HE WAS NOT INVOLVED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OR THE EMBASSY IN BEIRUT. AND OUR RECORDS, THOSE I HAVE SEEN, BEAR OUT HIS STATEMENT ON THE MATTER. I DO NOT HAVE ANY IMPRESSION AT ALL, ON MY PRESENT KNOWLEDGE OF THE MATTER, THAT -- HOW SHALL I PUT IT -- WE WERE OF PARTICULAR ASSISTANCE TO MR. VESCO IN LEBANON IN THIS PERIOD.

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Q. DID THE EMBASSY INVOLVE ITSELF IN HIS CASE AT ALL?

A. WELL, THAT' S A LITTLE HARD TO ANSWER. I' M CERTAIN -- WELL, TO PUT IT DIFFERENTLY -- I HAVE NO REASON TO THINK THAT WHILE HE WAS N LEBANON, MR. VESCO OR HIS PARTY DID NOT MAKE CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY, AND IF THAT IS WHAT YOU MEAN BY INVOLVEMENT TO EXPLAIN THEIR PLANS WITH RESPECT TO INTRABANK, I WOULD NOT CALL THAT INVOLVEMENT IN THE SENSE IN WHICH I THINK YOU ARE USING THE WORD.

Q. NO, BUT DID THE EMBASSY CONTACT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT ABOUT IT?

A. NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE, BUT I DON' T HAVE A FULL READING FOR YOU, AS OF THE MOMENT.

Q. COMING BACK TO KHARTOUM. THIS IS THE STANDARD REPLY WE GET FROM YOU NOW FOR WEEKS. IS THE EMBASSY IN CONTACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SUDAN?

A. I WOULD PREFER NOT TO CHARACTERIZE CONTACTS, IF ANY, WITH THE SUDANESE GOVERNMENT HERE, ENDRE. LET ME SAY ON BACKGROUND, IF I MAY, THAT YOU ARE QUITE RIGHT THAT WHAT I HAVE SAID REFLECTS NO CHANGE IN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION OR THE SITUATION ITSELF. BUT I DON' T HAVE YET THE SENSE THAT THERE IS ANY PARTICULAR REASON FOR CONCERN IN THE MATTER. END QUOTE. ROGERS

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NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

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**TAGS:** PFOR, n/a  
**To:** AMMAN  
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KUWAIT

MANAMA  
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